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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 4 December 1951

SUBJECT Alert Border Guard Units

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. About the middle of May 1951, reserve units of the Border Guards were withdrawn to Prague and other large towns of Czechoslovakia. They were equipped with trucks and were converted into Alert Units which were to intervene in case of disturbances in towns or to be used in major search actions against persons hiding in the woods, against parachutists dropped by Western intelligence services, etc. These units wear uniforms with green epaulettes on which there is a dog's head. They undergo special training in street fighting and in riot control. Some of these Border Guard Units are at times assigned to SNB stations in Prague and are armed with sub-machine guns while on duty. Members of the Alert Border Guard Units are officially attached to the Ministry of National Defense and possess an identity card on which it is stated that the bearer is authorized to make arrests in the border area and, if on duty, in other areas as well.
2. The main reason for withdrawing the Alert Border Guard Units to Prague and other large cities appears to be fear of demonstrations and spreading dissatisfaction among the civilian population because of the bad supply situation resulting from the decreased food ration.
3. In Prague II, in the street opposite the Slovansky Island, on the left hand side, there is a school for Border Guard Units where NCOs receive officer training for Border Guard duties.*

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* Comment: This may be the street called Na Struze, or Sitkov Ulice.

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